

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL RESOURCES
OFFICE OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

ARCHIVES INFORMATION CIRCULAR

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NORTH CAROLINA REVOLUTIONARY WAR RECORDS OF PRIMARY INTEREST TO GENEALOGISTS

Archivists at the North Carolina State Archives receive numerous requests dealing with the multiple collections preserved and maintained by the Archives. In answer to letters inquiring about Revolutionary War soldiers, the Archives staff makes a routine check of [three resources of information](#): pay vouchers and certificates; Army account books; and Colonial and State Records of North Carolina. Researchers visiting the Archives to search for information have considerably more records available to them than do those who merely write for information. The purpose of this circular is to describe briefly the major sources of information relating to North Carolina's Revolutionary War soldiers and patriots available to genealogical researchers in the North Carolina State Archives.

FINANCIAL RECORDS

Pay Vouchers and Certificates: These slips of paper, about the size of dollar bills, were used instead of money by the State of North Carolina to pay soldiers and citizens who furnished supplies or rendered other services. The pay vouchers and certificates were part of a complex financial system explained in [Archives Information Circular No. 1. – NORTH CAROLINA'S REVOLUTIONARY WAR PAY RECORDS](#). There are approximately 50,000 surviving pay vouchers and certificates; they are arranged alphabetically by the name of the person to whom they were issued.

Account Books: In the Revolutionary War era, the state bookkeeping system used volumes called "account books" to record the issue of vouchers and certificates. In addition, account books also represent a record of their return, when - upon payment - these pay vouchers and certificates were surrendered to the state treasurer. There are twenty-seven account books available to researchers. These have been comprehensively indexed in a single alphabetical listing on microfiche. This alphabetical index is available to researchers in the Archives Research Room; moreover, Archivists search the index to answer written inquiries. The account books, like the vouchers, are explained more fully in the above-mentioned *Archives Information Circular No. 1*.

Final Settlements: As the system of vouchers and account books suggests, the Revolutionary War was run on credit. This was true on the national as well as on the state level. Commissioners appointed at both levels settled debts owed by the state and the federal government; then the two governments settled their respective shares of the war debt. Settlements of outstanding debts owed to soldiers of the Continental Line (for deficits in pay, subsistence, or clothing) were called "Final Settlements." There are in the North Carolina State Archives about 600 files of accounts of Continental Line soldiers with deficits due to them after the Revolutionary War. These Final Settlements are a part of the Military series, Treasurer's and Comptroller's Records (T&C Mil 14-20). Final Settlements are foldered individually and are arranged alphabetically; a few folders include records on more than one person. The records range from 1776 to 1792, though most of them date from the early